

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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### RAAB TO ARRIVE MAY 17

Chancellor Julius Raab will arrive May 17 at New York - Idlewild for an official visit to the United States. He will proceed to Washington on the following day, where he will meet with President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles.

On May 22, a Honorary Doctorate of Laws will be conferred upon him by Notre Dame University (Indiana).

The Chancellor will then make a trip to the West coast and return to Vienna via the polar route.

His departure from San Francisco is scheduled for June 4.

### AUSTRIA URGES FREE TRADE AREA IN APPEAL TO OEEC STATES, U.S. AND CANADA

A memorandum by the Austrian Government which was handed to the governments of all OEEC states as well as the United States and Canada, stressed that Austria has not weakened in its resolve to cooperate in the creation of a Free Trade Area. At the same time, it warned that failure of the negotiations would have serious consequences. The memorandum also mentioned Austria's proposals in connection with the Free Trade Area.

The Free Trade Area, the memorandum said, might well be the only real way out to spare Europe the danger of an economic division into two economic spheres; every type of discrimination between the member states of the European Economic Community and the other members of the OEEC must be stopped if such a division is to be prevented.

"Even though the Austrian Federal Government is fully convinced that in spite of existing difficulties the Free Trade Area will finally be created for political as well as economic reasons — and because none of the OEEC nations could afford to take the responsibility for a failure of the project — the Austrian Federal Government considers it necessary to urge upon all concerned that failure to reach an agreement and discrimination by a part of the member states must have serious consequences," the memorandum states. "There can be no doubt that Austria, in such case, would be forced to limit the present volume of its liberalization. It would also be necessary for the Austrian Government to reappraise its obligations under the European Payments Union agreement in case the advantages under the currently existing trade and payments systems of the OEEC and EPU are forfeited.

"It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a

(Continued on page 2)

### IAEA-ASSEMBLY, CONFERENCE ON RADIATION RISKS TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY IN VIENNA

Prof. Thirring of Vienna University, who has been entrusted by the Koerner Foundation with the preparatory work for the international conference on radiation dangers (see our issue of April 26) announced that Bertrand Russell, London, will be chairman of the meeting. Prof. Thirring has also received a telegram from Prof. Eugene Rabinowitch, Chicago, indicating that the American scientist will attend and expressing his appreciation for the initiative taken by the Koerner Foundation.

The conference, to be attended by some 100 scientists from all over the world, will be held at about the same time (early September) as the Second General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.- body whose world headquarters are in Vienna.

Commenting upon the fact that the Koerner Foundation had taken the initiative in this matter, Austrian President Adolf Schaerf said that ever since his election to the presidency he had insisted that it was not enough to warn of the dangers emanating from nuclear radiation, but that it was necessary to meet the threat with determined, concrete measures.

"This is a problem of momentous importance to the whole of mankind; the pervading fear of radioactive contamination hangs like a dark and threatening cloud over the contemporary scene," the President said.

### VIENNA REPORTS HIGHEST RADIO ACTIVITY TO DATE

An increase in radio activity in the air over Vienna was recently found by tests made by the Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics. The long-lived particles of radio activity climbed by 500% over average on April 1 and 12, by 600% on April 4, 11 and 14 and by 1,200% on April 13. On April 13, the highest degree of radio activity was experienced since the Institute commenced its current tests. Rain water, too, showed an increase in radio activity.

The April 13 values also were the highest registered since 1955.

### AUSTRIA JOINS UN REFUGEE BODY

The United Nations Economic and Social Council elected Austria to membership of the Executive Committee of the Program of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, which will replace the committee for the refugee fund to be dissolved this year.

## TRAGIC HARVEST

The repatriation of Hungarian refugees, in which Budapest had taken the initiative, is meeting with increasing restrictions; according to figures available to the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, some 10,000 refugees have returned so far; of these, 6,500 reported to the Vienna authorities for processing.

In many cases, however, the Hungarian consulate now refuses to grant re-entry permits, and the refugees thus find themselves stranded at what they thought would only be a brief stopover on their trip home. These people cannot be accommodated in camps where they would have to mix with refugees claiming political asylum. They are probably the most vexing problem with which the Austrian refugee administration has had to cope so far; in protest against being refused repatriation, seven of them recently declared a hunger strike.

There have also been allegations that Hungarian representatives subjected returning refugees to undue pressure in an attempt to use them as informants. Two Hungarian diplomats have recently been implicated in such a case that had been brought to the attention of the Austrian authorities.

### Free Trade Area

(Continued from page 1)

smaller state to make a stand for its most vital economic interests as against an economically much stronger grouping. For this reason, too, Austria prefers the creation of a Free Trade Area which provides a sort of multi-lateral association of third countries with the European Economic Community.

"The Austrian Federal Government is fully conscious that creation of a Free Trade Area will demand sacrifice's from all participant nations and that, from considerations of reciprocity and possibly for purely administrative reasons, it will be necessary to limit exceptions favoring certain member states to the absolute minimum. Austria is fully prepared to undertake obligations arising out of the creation of the Free Trade Area, but it must point out the principles of European solidarity and mutual aid which have always been acknowledged by the OEEC. These principles have been one of the most important pre-conditions for European reconstruction following the second World War."

The memorandum then goes into the reasons for Austria's specific position:

1. Austria did not regain full sovereignty until 1955 and, in effect, lost relatively large industrial areas.
2. Economic burdens in fulfilment of the State Treaty.
3. The political and geographical situation of Austria - i. e. necessary avoidance of far-reaching economic risks which might influence Austria's political stability, whose maintenance is of advantage to Europe as a whole.

Again recalling the principle of European solidarity, the memorandum then voices these desiderata:

1. Recognition of the new Austrian tariff as the basis for any future reduction of customs duties for Austria. The new tariff becomes effective Sept. 1, 1958.

2. Permission to maintain export restrictions for certain goods for fixed periods of time, but not, in any event, extending beyond the provisional period. The Austrian Government declared in this connection that it by no means intended to act more rigorously than in the past with regard to export restrictions and that its maintenance of these restrictions was not meant to gain new or unwarranted advantages to Austrian exports.

3. Consideration of the difficulties of Austrian agriculture, characterized by the high degree of mountain areas and small farms as well as by the dangers to which the special cultivation of vineyards and truck farms is always subjected. Thus the special regulations for agriculture which would have to be written into the Free Trade Area agreement should not be more unfavorable for Austrian agriculture than those already written into the European Economic Community agreement.

4. Agreement on a special protocol which in the writing of an escape clause would show Austria as much understanding as the special situation of its economy merits. This means that it should be possible to employ a minimum price system or an equivalent system with regard to Austrian agriculture in case of structural changes such as the loss of certain agricultural products or entire categories.

In conclusion, the Federal Government expressed the view that its moderate demands fully correspond to existing principles for European cooperation.

## AUSTRIA GRANTED LOANS FROM U.S. COUNTERPART FUNDS

Long-term loans of 416 million schillings deriving from so-called counterpart funds were obtained by the Austrian Government following successful negotiations with the United States. The loans stem from funds accumulated in Austrian currency by the U.S. from the sale of American surplus agricultural goods in Austria. The U.S.-Austrian agreement provides that the loans be extended to commercial and industrial enterprises. All have been placed and will serve to help finance 37 business projects. (\$1= equals 26 schillings.)

## AUSTRIAN STEEL TO EXHIBIT AT NEW YORK TRADE FAIR

Five Austrian businesses will enter exhibits at the New York International Trade Fair, May 7 to 17. Among them will be VOeEST (United Austrian Iron and Steel Works) of Linz, Upper Austria, which will show a new Universal lathe and a newly developed all-purpose drilling machine.

## AUSTRIAN AIRLINES EXPAND

Daily two-way direct flights between Vienna and Frankfurt began May 5, following an agreement recently signed between the Austrian air line (AUA) and the German Luft-hansa. The agreement also authorized the scheduling of a daily flight between Vienna and Zurich, starting May 10.



### HELICOPTERS FOR THE AUSTRIAN AIRFORCE

Four helicopters of the "Whirlwind" type were handed over to General Lube of the Austrian Airforce on April 29 in London. The helicopters can land and take off on mountains. They will be flown by Austrian pilots who were trained in England.

### AUSTRIAN-BUILT MOTELS AT BRUSSELS WORLD FAIR

125 units, containing 1000 rooms, were delivered by Austrian builders to the Brussels World Fair. The order for the miniature dwelling units amounted to nearly 500,000 dollars.

### AUSTRIAN STATE LOANS

According to the final bank reports, public subscriptions for saving bonds and investment loans floated by the Austrian Government have reached a grand total of 322.38 billion schillings. A total of 83.87 billion (26 schillings to the dollar) was subscribed for the 6% saving bonds and 288.51 billion for the investment loans yielding 7%. Subscribers for the saving bonds outnumbered subscribers to the investment issue three to one.

The aggregate public share in the subscriptions was 450 billion schillings. Surety syndicates underwrote the 127.62 billion not included in the bank figures.

### IMPORTS REDUCED IN FIRST QUARTER

Imports to Austria in March of this year amounted to 1,008,100 tons (valued at 2,480 million schillings) as compared to 749,500 tons in February. The February imports were valued at 2,151 million (26 schillings to the dollar). Exports for the month of March, valued at 2,092 million schillings, amounted to 527,800 tons as over against 492,300 tons in February (1,875 million).

In the first quarter of the current year Austrian imports, worth 6,972 million schillings, were 6.3% lower than during the same period in 1957. At the same time exports were reduced 5.5%, totalling 5,694 million. Thus the Austrian foreign trade deficit, amounting to 1,278 million schillings, was 10% lower than during the first quarter of 1957. (Trade deficits amounted to 866 million schillings in the first quarter of 1956, and 1,365 million in the first quarter of 1955; a surplus of 149 million schillings had been registered in the first quarter of 1954.)

### HOUSING GRANTS

Numerous applications for loans to repair or rebuild war-damaged housing are still being received by the Ministry of Commerce and Reconstruction this month. The amount requested in recent loan applications totalled 81.1 million schillings for 40 projects.

Since its establishment, the home reconstruction fund of the ministry has granted 9,372 loans, amounting to 6.75 billion schillings. (26 schillings to the dollar.)

### TAXES UP 140 PERCENT SINCE 1937

According to a report of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, the Government received 25 billion schillings (close to one billion dollars) in taxes in 1957. If other governmental taxes and quasi-fiscal receipts are added, the total tax payments amount to 39.7 billion schillings. Broken down, this figure represents a 5,700 schilling per capita tax.

Measured against the gross national product, taxes and welfare costs amounted to 32.6%; thus, both relatively and absolutely, the tax total is higher now than before the war: in 1937, taxes amounted to 25.4 percent of the gross national product. (Accordingly, tax-levies have increased 141% in 20 years; however, taxes were rather high even in the thirties since the budgets of many governmental agencies had to be balanced against falling receipts due to the economic crisis.)

Of the total 39.7 billion schillings in current tax receipts, 73% were appropriated by the Federal government, 4% by the Laender and communities, and 23% by the social security agencies. Austrian fiscal policy provides for 55% of all tax funds to go to the state; contributions to the Laender and communities were raised 22%. (In 1937, the state received 57% of the total tax receipts, the Laender and communities 26%, and the social security agencies 20%.)

Similarly, the contribution of taxes to the gross national product has risen from 5.6% to 12.2% in the past twenty years. Social assessments (primarily unemployment payments) are at present three times higher than before the war and their contribution to the gross national product has increased from 5% to 7%. Hence the chief emphasis of the Austrian tax system has shifted from indirect to direct taxation.

Viewed internationally, Austria has the second highest tax burden in Europe after the German Federal Republic. Correspondingly, Austria's layout for social insurance and child and family welfare is way above average. Some sectors of the economy, like housing, transport and supply, whose costs in other countries are covered by earned income, are also subsidized by taxes. Nor should the burdens imposed by the State Treaty be overlooked.

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### INDUSTRY PRODUCES CLOSE TO CAPACITY

Austrian industry made good use of its potentials in 1957, statistics collected by the Chamber of Commerce showed. About 24% of all enterprises worked at 100% of capacity while 24.5% utilized between 76 and 99% of their technical potential. Another 24% worked at 71 to 75% of capacity. The rest worked considerably below capacity. The number of enterprises which stood at 4,546 in December, 1956, decreased to 4,536 by December, 1957. On the other hand, the number of employed increased from 574,904 to 582,350. Of the total number of employed, 87,375 or 15.2% were white collar workers. This corresponds approximately to the international average.

### FEWER INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES, MORE JOBS

Stabilization in the field of Austrian industry is continuing, industrial statistics for December, 1957, showed. As mentioned elsewhere on these pages, the number of industrial enterprises declined from 4,546 to 4,536 in the period from December, 1956, to December, 1957. During the same time, the number of workers and employees in these enterprises rose from 574,904 to 582,350. If those employed by the lumber industry and by utility firms is included, the total number of industrial workers stood at 654,176 at the end of last year.

The number of men thus employed rose last year from 386,851 to 390,117; that of women from 188,053 to 192,233. In the case of males, this means a rise of only .8% but in the case of females of 2.2%. The reason for this may be found in the fact that the flow of women into the labor market is still continuing while the reservoir of male labor seems nearly exhausted - except in the case of seasonal labor. The number of foreign workers in Austrian industry has declined from 10,745 in 1956 to 9,055 in 1957. This decrease is due not to the emigration of foreign labor, but to the naturalization of foreigners.

The relation of the number of white collar workers to that of other workers has changed little. At the end of 1956, the figures showed 87,375 white collar workers as against 487,529 industrial workers, i.e. white collar workers accounted for 15.2% of the total employed. At the end of 1957, the figures were 90,284 white collar employees as against 492,066 workers. The percentage was 15.5% in 1957, which corresponded to the international average for industry. Nor was there any considerable change in the relation of skilled and unskilled workers. Skilled workers accounted for 32.5% (1956: 32.8%), semi-skilled workers 37.7% (1956: 37.2%) and unskilled workers 24.6% (24.4%). The number of industrial apprentices was somewhat lower: 19,792 compared to 20,237. Home workers increased again last year and numbered 5,892. These figures show up a need for skilled labor which should be met by maintenance of appropriate training facilities.

### STRUCTURAL STEEL EQUIPMENT EXPORTED

Structural steel equipment is among the more important Austrian exports and is in great demand in many corners of the globe. One of the big Austrian firms is busy filling a large number of diverse orders, which include:

Steel structures for a hydraulic power station near Aswan, Egypt. Similar installations for the Bhakra Dam, the Ghandi Sagar Dam, and the Panchet Hill power station, all in India; for the Rio Caroni power station in Caracas, Venezuela; for the Snowy Mountains station in Australia; and for the El Marques reservoir in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Structural steel equipment has either already been delivered or is nearing shipment for construction of customs warehouses in Bandar Shapur and port installations at Khorramshahrin, Iran; gas pipelines went to Heluan, Egypt; highway bridges were erected over the Tigris near Baghdad

and Baquba, Iraq; and some 290 railroad bridges were ordered by the Indian State Railroad. Waste heat boilers were installed for the Steel works in Bochum, West Germany, the Yawata Iron & Steel Co. in Japan, and the Hindustan Steel Co. in India. Steel piers were built for port installations at Bandar Shapur.

### EXPANSION OF FERTILIZER PRODUCTION

Production of chemical fertilizers in Austria reached 786,024 metric tons last year, an increase of about 19% over 1956. The demand has increased by about 250% since the pre-war years of 1934 to 1938. Yet consumption of nitrogenous fertilizer is much less with an estimated 14 kilograms per hectare than the average in the OEEC area which is 18.1 kilos. (These figures are taken from a recently published OEEC study about the production, consumption and export of nitrogenous fertilizer in Europe; Iceland consumed the most nitrogenous fertilizer per hectare with 93.7 kilo, the Netherlands were next with 82.4, followed by Belgium, Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany.)

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### JUBILEE FAIR IN WELS

Austria's Central Agricultural Fair, which takes place biennially in Wels, Upper Austria, will be of special interest this year when it celebrates its 80th anniversary. The Jubilee Fair will be held from August 30 to September 7 in 22 exhibition halls with a total area of 400,000 square meters. For agricultural machines alone, 30,000 square meters of space have been reserved. How important the Wels Fair is follows from the fact that two years ago sales of agricultural machinery alone amounted to more than 250 million schillings. The number of visitors rose from 90,000 in 1878 to about one million in 1954.

### PROMOTION CAMPAIGN TO BOOST COTTON SALES

A special campaign to boost the sale of cotton products has been launched in Austria, (April 14 to 28). One hundred and seventy-five Vienna textile merchants are participating in these Cotton Weeks.

During these two weeks, they and 900 other merchants throughout the country feature the most interesting cotton articles in their showcases. Eight hundred cooperatives which handle textiles, also take part in the campaign. Sound pictures are being shown to the customers, and publicity in press and radio is being used as sales aid.

### SILVER COINS TO REPLACE TEN-SCHILLING NOTES

It is expected that the ten-schilling silver coins in circulation since July 1957 will replace ten-schilling notes within two years. Some 50 million ten-schilling coins will be minted. A 25-schilling commemorative coin will be issued at a later date.



**BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR LIGHT BULBS**

The prospects of Austrian electric light bulb producers seem bright indeed. A total of 29.5 million bulbs was produced in 1957, topping the 27.6 million mark set in 1956 by 7%. Exports of light bulbs increased significantly to the amount of 17.6 million schillings (26 schillings to the dollar.) At the same time, however, imports also rose as a result of the liberalization of trade agreements; in 1957, they totalled 22.8 million schillings, a figure 55% higher than that of the preceding year.

At present there are eight light bulb factories in Austria, employing 1500 workers. Their productive capacity is twice as great as the national consumption.

**OPINION INTEGRATION IN EUROPE:  
VIENNA MEETING DECIDES TO COORDINATE  
INTER-EUROPEAN MARKET RESEARCH**

Americans have a way of adapting themselves to changes that sometimes seem to precede events rather than following them (or so it appears to many Europeans); a year ago they first heard of a European economic union and now when they consider European trade, they no longer speak of France, Austria or Italy but simply of Europe as a whole. This has been noted by American market research institutes who ask less and less for a market report of a specific European nation and more and more for reports of the "European market" when they want to investigate the sales possibilities of a given product. This development was partly responsible for the fact that the European market research institutes which belong to INRA (an international organization of market researchers), recently consolidated as INRA-Europe. This fusion, which anticipates the European union, took place in Vienna a short time ago.

Representatives from the United States, Norway, Britain, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Italy and Austria met in Vienna to coordinate market research in Europe. In order to unify procedures, an INRA-Europe office was established which is to be a center of European market research. (INRA's great competitor, the opinion polls associated with Galup, have not yet taken steps to coordinate their European research.)

In the future, when one of the European branches obtains a market research order covering all Europe, this order is passed on to all the other branches; the results are analyzed and integrated on a continent-wide basis.

The American representative at the Vienna meeting, Elmo C. Wilson, has already placed several orders from across the sea. Among them were one from an electric appliance firm and one from a manufacturer of insulating material for dwellings.

**AUSTRIAN RESCUE SERVICE EXCELS**

An Austrian entry in an international rescue service contest, the Mountain Rescue Squad Steyr, was awarded four gold medals and two silver medals. The event took place recently in Davos, Switzerland. Crews from eight countries competed.

**RURAL POSTMEN MCTORIZED**

Rural postmen in Austria will be ringing more often than twice a week as a result of the rapid motorization of the postal service in the countryside. According to a recent announcement, the postal administration has just purchased 1000 "mopeds" and 200 motor bikes for its rural letter carriers.

The motorization is expected to improve delivery of letters and parcels high up in the Alps where formerly postmen delivered mail only twice weekly. Only a half year ago there were 380 such postal districts.

Postal officials are also planning to erect multiple-slotted mail delivery boxes on roads leading to remote mountain villages so that villagers can pick up their mail without having to make long treks to the nearest district post office, often miles away.

**NEW AUSTRIAN SHIPS  
FASTEST AFLOAT ON LAKE CONSTANCE**

Three new Austrian ships will join the Lake Constance fleet of passenger line vessels this summer. The new vessels have been christened: "Austria", "Oesterreich", and "Stadt Bregenz". Up to now only smaller Austrian motor boats have helped to handle the passenger traffic on this 207 square mile lake lying between northeast Switzerland and southern Germany. The Austrian fleet will primarily carry passengers bound for the resorts in Bregenz, Lindau, Friedrichshafen and Meersburg.

The total lake fleet consists of 34 German, 12 Swiss and six Austrian vessels. The "Austria" is the flagship of the Austrian Lake Constance fleet. It carries 1200 passengers and has a speed of 24 miles per hour, making it the fastest ship on the lake.

**BORING FIFTIES A STARTLING  
CONTRAST TO ROARING TWENTIES**

Intellectual and political passivity characterize Austrian youth today in the view of sociologists, psychologists and welfare workers of all political parties and religious faiths who met recently in Vienna. The meeting was called by the Ministry for Social Welfare to discuss youth problems and their relation to society.

Prof. Topisch, a sociologist, pointed to the increasing incidence of sex crimes among young people. He attributed it to the discrepancy between sexual maturity and intellectual immaturity. The other aspect of the contemporary youth problem, their conformity and passivity, was viewed as a problem that could be met by education. The majority of young people, the conference was told, are completely uninterested in intellectual or political matters and seemingly care only about their motor scooters. "They are more conformist than was the youth living under the Habsburg emperors."

Austrians concerned over the youth problem have taken steps to exchange data and recommendations with individual experts and educational groups all over the world. An Austrian branch of the International Society of Youth Workers

has been formed. Its membership is composed of teachers, group leaders, youth psychologists, police chiefs, juvenile court judges and others dealing with youth problems.

### THE MARCH OF TIME: ORGAN GRINDERS DYING OUT IN MUSICAL VIENNA; JUKE BOXES AROUND

Only three persons, one a woman, have a license to operate barrel organs in Vienna. Twenty years ago there were forty; at the end of World War II there were ten.



These three are the last survivors of a way of life that is alien to the present generation. (The first organ-grinders in Vienna were disabled war veterans who had received a special imperial grant permitting them to earn their living as street-musicians. Today Viennese can see such organs only in their museums; not a single barrel-organ has been sold in Vienna for decades.)

The Viennese have no objection to mechanical music, however; a survey made at the beginning of April 1958 disclosed that there were no less than 923 juke-boxes in the city's restaurants and bars. In other words, one juke box in every seventh establishment of the kind.

### AUSTRIAN MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS ACTIVE ON TWO FRONTS

Austrian mountaineers led by Matthias Rebitch have scaled the volcano Arakar in Argentina (about 18,000 feet).

The Austrian team, in cooperation with an Argentine group, next plans to scale the formidable volcano Antofalla, about 1200 feet higher than the Arakar and lying in the same area. Having completed their ascent, the mountaineers will study the ancient burial sites there. Working for the Univer-

sity of Innsbruck, Rebitch has already made a study of the graves on the Lluluyaco.

Meanwhile the Austrian Karakorum expedition, led by Heinrich Rois, is readying itself to conquer its next peak. The party has arrived in Rawalpindi, where the expedition is to be based. According to Rois the assault on Haramosh, 21,000 feet high, will begin soon and is expected to take two months.

## CULTURE AND SCIENCE

### AUSTRIAN MEDICAL EXPERT FOR IAEA

Dr. Herbert Vetter of the University of Vienna has been appointed medical expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency, according to an announcement by the Agency. He will also function as special consultant for the medical use of isotopes, particularly within the framework of the Agency's technical assistance program for underdeveloped areas, the International Atomic Energy Agency said. As a member of the medical faculty of the University of Vienna, Dr. Vetter had specialized — since 1949 — in the study of isotopes and their utilization in diagnosis and therapy. He also was a fellow for cancer research at the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York.

### FOREIGN ENSEMBLES AT VIENNA FESTIVAL

The Burgtheater has invited a number of foreign ensembles to give guest performances during the Vienna Festival Weeks. Invitations went to the Bavarian Residenz Theater, Munich; the Zurich Theater; the Mannheim National Theater; as well as to Vittorio Gassmann (Italy) and his Ensemble.

The Bavarian group will offer Lope de Vega's "Tumult im Narrenhaus" on June 4 and 5; the Mannheim organization will give Ernst Barlach's "Die Suendflut" on June 21 and 22; and the Zurich Theater plans to perform "Biedermann" and "Hotz" by Max Frisch on June 8 and 9. Vittorio Gassmann has Sophocles' "Oedipus" and Alfieri's "Oreste" under consideration.

In addition, Curt Goetz' "Alte Moebel" will be given during the Festival at the Akademietheater. The premiere is set for May 10.

### MUCH ADO ABOUT JOHNNY RAY

When America's crying crooner, Johnny Ray, recently gave a concert in the Vienna City Center, police had their hands full trying to keep his fans in check. Accompanied by Johannes Fehring and his Orchestra, Johnny Ray offered a program which played havoc with the emotions of the audience. When the applause — or rather the yelling and whistling — did not stop at the end of his performance, Johnny sang an encore which brought down the house. However, his Viennese fans proved not quite as persistent as his American followers. At the end, they went home, quietly.



### VIENNA STATE OPERA PLANS NEW SEASON

The Vienna State opera has recently announced its plans for new presentations during the 1958-1959 season. In late September, Verdi's "Masked Ball" will be revived under the musical direction of Dimitri Mitropoulos. Josef Gielen will direct and Ita Maximowa has designed the sets.

A new scenic design will also feature Wagner's "Rheingold" in December. Herbert Karajan will be the conductor as well as the stage director. The design will be by Emil Preterorius.

The premiere of "Dialogue of the Carmelites" by Francis Poulenc is scheduled for early February, 1959. Stage direction: Margarethe Wallmann, scenery: Georges Wakheutsch. (No musical director has as yet been chosen.) Gounod's "Faust" will make its reappearance on the program in March with Lovro von Matacic conducting, Raymond Rouleau as director and Lila di Nobili as scenic designer.

A new presentation of Richard Strauss' "Arabella" is scheduled for April. Joseph Keilberth will conduct, Rudolf Hartman will direct and Stefan Hlawa design.

Another work by Wagner, "The Flying Dutchman", will follow in May, 1959. Conductor: Karl Boehm.

In November 1958, and March, 1959, two world premieres of ballets are planned. They are Heimo Erbse's "Ruth" and Rudolf Berger's "Seasons." Other ballets on the tentative program include: "La Parisienne" by Offenbach-Gaite, and the "Fairy Doll" and "Coppelia", both by Delibes. The dates for these performances have not been set.

Rossini's opera "Cenerentola" will be given in the Redoutensaal under Guenther Rennert's direction next March.

### "WORKING GROUP EAST"

Working Group East, the newly formed top organization of Austrian institutes concerned with research into Eastern Europe, has set itself an extensive program which emphasizes scientific interests.

Under the slogan "approach matters scientifically and economically, not in terms of political philosophy," questions concerning Eastern Europe will be thoroughly examined. Austria, a neutral state, is well suited for this task, which is also facilitated by geographical affinity.

Lectures will play a large part in the activities of the working group; legal opinions will be given by well-known jurists who will discuss problems in the legal relationship with the nations of Eastern Europe. The group has at its disposal an almost complete collection of the law journals of the Eastern bloc nations as well as general documentation of laws and regulations in East Europe which is probably one of the most extensive of its kind.

The group will also issue a journal, and work for the completion of an atlas of the Danube countries is under way; as part of this project, a volume containing the most important data on the Eastern European nations as well as on Austria and Germany will be published. Special consider-

ation will be given to communications and centers of production. The text will deal exclusively with economical questions.

### SELF-CENSORSHIP OF FILMS

In connection with the recommendation of a committee on cabinet level that the Austrian film industry apply self-censorship in deference to the increased concern with the protection of youth against low-grade films, the Federation of Austrian Movie Exhibitors has invited representatives of the press for an exchange of views.

The film association emphasized that the movie house owners were in favor of a commission that would weed out immoral films, or parts thereof. They are willing to cooperate in efforts to create such an organ, which would be instrumental in banning certain films.



### SPECIAL STAMP ISSUED FOR MOTHER'S DAY

The Austrian Postal Service issued on May 5 a special stamp in commemoration of Mother's Day. The blue-black stamp (see picture) has a denomination of 1.50 schillings.

### BOOK STATISTICS FOR 1957

During the past year, Austrian publishers brought out 5,177 individual publications as against 5,186 in 1956. A survey, issued recently, shows that 3,824 books were published in 1957 as against 3,696 in 1956. The total publishers' output also included 780 periodicals, 523 musical scores and maps, and 50 miscellaneous publications. First editions of books, maps and scores amounted to 3,800 compared with 3,695 the previous year. Of the 1957 totals, 3,027 publications were sold through regular retail channels while 2,150 were publications outside the normal book trade. Of the latter, 939 were theses written by candidates for higher degrees at Austrian universities and colleges. The survey also showed that 5,039 publications were printed in German, and 138 in foreign languages, including 40 in English, 34 in French and 21 in Hungarian.

A breakdown as to subject matter shows: 596 publications on political economy, sociology and statistics; 572 in the category of belles-lettres; 300 on natural sciences; 26 on religion and theology; 237 on history, cultural research and ethnology; 230 on trade and communications; 212 on technical, industrial and commercial subjects; and 211 on themes for children and adolescents. Among translations of

foreign books, more than half were in the realm of literature. Altogether 249 works were translated: 117 from English, 63 from French, 13 from Italian, 11 from Swedish and 45 from 14 other languages. In 1956, 221 works were translated with 118 from English, 46 from French, 19 from Italian, 5 from

Swedish and 42 from 13 other languages.

The total value of Austrian book exports in 1957 was about 112 million schillings as against 125 million the year before. About 70% of the exports represented sales in the German language area.

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